

# TempePRE

## BLOG

### Build a “Colorful” Library

Think back to the books from your early childhood. Which books were your favorite and why? What did you learn from those books? What resonated with you? As a child, you may have remembered the fun illustrations and characters in the books, but you unknowingly learned about different concepts, ideas, morals, topics, skills, and lessons from these same books. As a child, who knew that the book, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, was about learning cause and effect? Or that *The Little Engine That Could* was about perseverance? Reading these books as an adult, these concepts are easy to identify, but as a child they may not have been so clear. As you read these books to your child, you are essentially teaching the ideas, morals, and lessons you would want them to learn. Your selection of books that you bring home to your child will help to shape their very own character and understanding of their environment.

There are so many books available now covering a wide variety of concepts and ideas. Explore different books that illustrate the ideas and concepts you would want your child to learn beyond just numbers and letters. For example, during this time of the pandemic, emotions are running high from both parents and children. For you, maybe staying at home and being online all day while supporting your family will bring many different feelings. Your child seeing everyone in masks, and not being able to socialize as before will also create feelings that they have never felt before. Your feelings as a parent are validated and so is your child's feelings. Perhaps you would want to open the conversation between you and your child about feelings by reading the book *Sometimes I'm Bombaloo* by Rachel Vail, or *Bear Feels Scared* by Karma Wilson. In a similar manner, the idea of celebrating diversity has become more profound in the recent years. Show your child to appreciate their differences and respect other's differences by discussing these concepts after reading *It's Okay to Be Different* by Todd Parr, or *Families, Families, Families* by Suzanne Lang.

The books you choose for your child's “colorful” library today will be remembered even when they are adults.

If you would like book recommendations for your 0-5 year old child contact Thrive to Five through our website at [ThrivetoFive.org](http://ThrivetoFive.org). Visit our Community Resources page for a listing of local libraries, or watch Musical Story Time videos by Paul Whitney on our Videos & Handouts page.

**Lilliana Urenda** -Family Resource Center Manager. *The Thrive to Five Family Resource Center is funded by First Things First, and is part of the Tempe Elementary School District to provide family support services and community referrals to parents and caregivers of children ages birth to five years old. Thrive to Five offers free educational programs including early literacy, nutrition, and kindergarten readiness classes to promote the understanding of early childhood development and to help prepare your child for success in school.*



**We are here to help you navigate the Tempe PRE program.**

Please contact us for assistance 480-858-7735

Pre-k@tempe.gov

Check us out on Facebook



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Tempe PRE is a program of the City of Tempe, in partnership with the Tempe Elementary School District.